

Definitions and General Information Pertaining to SCDOT Projects with USACE Permits

I. Definitions:

- A. Fill – There are numerous terms used to describe this impact, including but not limited to: Cut/Fill, Permanent Wetland Impact (Fill), Wetland Fill Impact, Stream Fill, Rip Rap Fill, etc. This term applies to a section of the project in which fill material will be placed. If the term “Fill” is used, these areas can be cleared and grubbed with equipment; the equipment does not have to be on mats. For SCDOT, “Fill” will normally be stone or soil. This is considered a permanent impact. This impact will be shown on the Permitted Plans.
- B. Cut – In most instances, excavation is not considered an impact. However, depending on the type of operations utilized to implement an excavation, the resulting effect may be considered fill. These types of operations must be considered carefully to avoid a non-permitted impact. If excavation is performed in an area that is not shown as a Cut/Fill impact on the Permitted Plans, the On-Call Compliance Consultant should be contacted before any work begins in that area.
- C. Clearing – There are numerous terms used to describe this impact, including but not limited to: Mechanized Clearing, Mechanical Clearing, Permanent Clearing, Temporary Clearing, Freshwater Wetland Clearing, etc. This term applies to a section of the project in which clearing and grubbing can be performed. If the term “Clearing” is used in a permit, that area may be cleared and grubbed with equipment; the equipment does not have to be on mats. Clearing may be a permanent or temporary impact. This impact will be shown on the Permitted Plan Sheets.

Note:

- Temporary Clearing means the area may be cleared and grubbed with equipment, but it will be allowed to revegetate naturally, following construction. These areas will not be mowed or maintained. This would be considered a temporary impact.
- Permanent Clearing means the area may be cleared and grubbed with equipment, but it will not be allowed to revegetate naturally, following construction. These areas will be mowed and maintained by SCDOT. This would be considered a permanent impact.

- As the trees are cut, they can be stockpiled in the wetland as long as the contractor is actively working in the area. If the contractor ceases work in an area, the trees must be removed before ceasing operations.

II. General Information:

- A. Additional Clearing in Wetland Boundary – The wetland boundaries should be shown on all construction plans. These are the wetland areas that are outside, adjacent to, the “Cut/Fill” and “Clearing” areas (NPDES Line), but within the SCDOT ROW and/or BCA. In these areas, the vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.) cannot be removed without prior authorization. Any additional clearing (grubbing is not an option) requested must be authorized by the SCDOT-Environmental Compliance Office. If additional clearing is minimal and the SCDOT Environmental Compliance Office authorizes the additional clearing outside the permitted limits, the area cannot be any larger than 0.1 acres and must be executed carefully as described below:
 - a. The stumps can be cut flush with the ground. The area cannot be grubbed. The area cannot be graded or reshaped. Equipment can be used to remove the vegetation; the equipment does not have to be on mats. Mats will be used if the area is too wet for equipment access. Mats will be used if any equipment is needed to be stored within the area.
 - b. Storage of equipment in wetlands is not allowed unless the equipment is actively being used for daily construction.
- B. Mats (also known as crane mats, bridge mats, etc.) – As noted in the “Fill” and “Clearing” sections, mats are not required in the areas that will be cleared and grubbed. As noted in the “Wetland Boundary” section, mats are not required unless the area is too wet for equipment access. Mats are considered a BMP and are only required for equipment access. The exception is if the use of mats is called out in the Special Conditions of a permit.
- C. Hand Clearing – The term “Hand Clearing” will not be used any longer, unless there is a Special Condition that is specifically called out in the Permit.
- D. Outfall Ditches (OFD’s) – For OFD’s located in a wetland, the accumulated sediment and debris in the OFD can be removed down to the original shape and contour of the OFD, without a permit. The excavated soil cannot be stored or stockpiled in the wetland; it must be removed from the wetland as

it is excavated. In order to access the OFD, the vegetation in the wetland can be removed as outlined above in the "Wetland Boundary" section.

If the OFD has to be relocated, realigned, elevation changed, etc., a permit will be required. This will be noted in the permit drawings.

- E. Special Conditions – The Special Conditions of any permit may dictate specific operations or sequence of operations that must be implemented on that particular project. The items noted in the Special Conditions will supersede any direction given by this document.